

THE OCALA BANNER.



FRANK HARRIS, Editor.

And even Ben Tillman was bun-coed.

The president bluffs with serene composure.

Love of home is not shown by going to the club.

The Seaboard Air Line has recently borrowed \$10,000,000.

A ship building company has been organized in Pensacola.

Count Tolstoi has been ex-communicated by the Russian church.

Fifty-eight lawyers have died in Jacksonville since the civil war.

Li Hung Chang is appealing to the powers to prevent the encroachments of Russia.

Hon. Paris Gibson, democrat, takes the place of Carter, of Montana, who talked the river and harbor bill to death.

There is a possibility that exports of live stock on an extreme scale will be made from New Orleans during the present year.

Mrs. Hilton, wife of the late Judge Henry Hilton, executor of the estate of Alexander T. Stewart, died in Paris, March 11th.

The man who has never been "bun-coed" don't know exactly how it feels; if he don't all he has got to do is to ask any democratic congressman.

Queen Victoria received about \$120,000,000 from the British nation in payment of her official salary. This would make about 170 tons of gold in English sovereigns, or more than two tons of gold for each year of her reign.

Mr. Bryan says that it looks "as if the Nicaraguan canal project had fallen through. The trans-continental railroads and the McKinley administration are responsible. The railroads were afraid that if the water were used for the canal there would not be enough left for their stocks."

Mr. Bryan, in his paper, points to Admiral Sampson as a horrible example of the effects of imperialism and militarism. We cannot have imperialism, Mr. Bryan says, without aristocracy and snobbery, and Admiral Sampson is merely "a representative of the new order of things."

There are still room for cotton mills in the south. Buying most of its cotton from us Europe exported last year cotton manufactured goods to the amount of \$400,000,000, while the United States only exported cotton manufactured goods in the sum of \$21,000,000. This suggests great possibilities for the south.

It were better, it seems to us, if our navy were not made up of the social aristocracy, if it be true it is now so made up. Alas, alack, see how poor Dewey fell! Then how Hobson kissed himself into "inocuous desecitude." And lastly comes Sampson writing that fool letter, from the ridicule and infamy of which he can never recover.

The Pittsburg Dispatch believes there is more "steal" than "steel" in the recently formed billion-dollar steel trust. The proportion of "steal" to "steel," it says, is about three to one, figuring it out this way: It is estimated that all of the properties included in the combination could be reproduced for \$304,000,000, the amount of the bonded debt. This would leave the common and preferred stock all water, "which is another name for steal."

More About the Queen.

The disposal of Queen Victoria's numerous pets is a matter of no small concern to the persons who are closing up her affairs. The late queen was a great lover of cats. When the court moved it was accompanied by a feline caravan. There were Persian cats, Manx cats, Angora cats, rabby cats and nondescripts, and they all traveled in state. They were placed in wooden boxes with an open wire front, and had plenty of clean straw to lie on. One Persian cat, of which the queen was especially fond, wears around its neck an elaborate collar, on which appears in silver letters, "I belong to the queen."

McKinley's Boyish Plea.

President McKinley's inaugural observation that we are not waging war against the Filipinos, but that they are waging war against us, has all the earmarks of the philosophy of the small boy who charged all his tribulations up to the other small boy. The other small boy threw the first paper wad.—Boston Herald.

TO EQUALIZE TAXES.

The committee appointed by the executive committee of the Good Roads Association of the county commissioners of Florida, to whom was referred such legislative enactments as were in a crude form endorsed by said convention, to systematize and put in proper form to be introduced at the coming session of the legislature, met in Ocala on the 11th inst., and we are indebted to Hon. H. W. Long for the following details agreed upon by the committee:

A bill known as the Dickson bill, to amend the present mode of assessing taxes to defray the expenses of the state and to equalize the value of the real and personal property of the several counties of the state. The main features agreed upon were as follows: The officials of the state, instead of ascertaining the amount of revenue necessary to run the state government per year, and securing the same by a uniform millage to be assessed and collected upon the real and personal property of the state as assessed and valued by the several assessors of the different counties; that the officials of the state shall ascertain the amount of money necessary to pay the total expenses of the state, and after ascertaining approximately the total amount of revenue that will be collected from railroads, telegraph companies, sleeping cars and the occupation tax, deduct that amount from the amount total necessary to defray the expenses of the state government for one or more years, and apportion the remainder among the several counties of the state according to the financial strength of said counties, as shown by the value of the real and personal property contained in each. The aggregate value of the real and personal property to be determined by a commission of seven, composed of one member from each judicial circuit of the state, to be appointed by the governor for a term of four years, and confirmed by the senate. The duty of this commission shall be to visit each county of the state during the months of July, August, September, October and November, and ascertain by an examination of the public records of each county, and determine from such examination, and from any other reliable data obtainable, the total valuation of the real and personal property of each county, giving said county an opportunity to show cause why such reduction should be made; who shall report the same to the comptroller the first day of January following. The amount so apportioned to each county shall be raised by levy and assessment by the county commissioners of the several counties as county taxes are levied, assessed and collected, and forwarded to the state treasurer on a date to be fixed. All real estate that is now required to be certified to the state by the collectors of revenue for non-payment of taxes shall be certified to the county commissioners of the county in which they are located. All redemption of such lands shall be redeemed from the county commissioners of the county where located. The advertising of the delinquent tax sale to be paid by the counties, and 25 per cent. interest, etc., paid upon redeeming to be paid to the counties instead of the state.

There are other minor details unnecessary to mention to give an idea of the merits of this bill.

It is believed by the supporters of this bill that if it is enacted into law one of its most salutary effects will be to remove any inducement by any county officials to place a low valuation upon property so as to lower the amount of taxes to be paid the state.

Another is bringing the facilities of redeeming lands, as it were, to the doors of those wanting to redeem.

It is also believed that after the machinery of this bill is put in working condition that the commission need not visit the counties oftener than once in ten years. It is to be paid a per diem for the time actually consumed in its official duties.

The above bill was referred to Hon. W. L. Palmer, of Orange, to be drawn in proper form.

Bills amending statutory laws, fixing a penalty for the escape of convicts; another making it a misdemeanor for log carts, etc., destroying or injuring public roads and failing to repair the same, and fixing a penalty therefor; another making it a misdemeanor and fixing a penalty for injuring or destroying shade trees within the right-of-way of public roads, were referred to Hon. W. K. Zawadski to be drawn in proper form.

Teddy Bit His Lips.

Senator Morgan took early occasion, says the Savannah News, to let Vice President Roosevelt know that he is only a mighty small part of the senate. The other day when Mr. Roosevelt put a motion that the senate go into executive session he got rattled and said the session was to consider such business "as the president sees fit." Instantly Senator Morgan was on his feet. "Such business as the senate sees fit," he corrected, Roosevelt bit his lip, looked foolish, blushed under his sunburn and repeated after the Alabamian, "as the senate sees fit."

The Plant Will Case.

Mrs. Margaret J. Plant, the widow of Henry Bradley Plant, listened for five hours yesterday while John E. Parsons spoke in her behalf in the Plant will case, which has been on trial before Judge Leventritt, of the supreme court. The questions at issue are as to whether this state or Connecticut shall administer the Plant fortune, and also as to whether the will shall be offered for probate here or shall be allowed to rest undisturbed in Connecticut, where it has been probated.

Mr. Parsons, in his address yesterday, declared that Mr. Plant intended to establish a complete hospital in this city, and had also planned to provide for several of his trusted employees. The counsel for the plaintiff also added that should his client succeed in upsetting the will she would proceed to carry out the wishes her husband had expressed in his lifetime.

It was the closing day of the trial, which has been in progress for weeks, and which involves the disposition of \$20,000,000. If Mr. Plant's will is carried out this fortune may be tied up for sixty or even eighty years.

The estate is now drawing interest at between 4 and 5 per cent., and, while at the time of the death of Mr. Plant, on June 23, 1899, it was valued at \$17,000,000, it has since increased to \$20,000,000. At 4 per cent. the income is \$800,000 annually, and at 5 per cent. it amounts to \$1,000,000. In sixty years the estate will have increased to \$160,000,000, and in eighty years it will have mounted up to nearly \$400,000,000.

Mr. Plant's will provides for the payment of an annual income of \$30,000 each to his widow and his son, Morton Freeman Plant, and then ties up the fortune during the lives of the widow, son, daughter-in-law and grandson—who is now about seven years old—until the youngest child of his grandson reaches the age of 21 years. While the tying up of an estate beyond "two lives in being" is invalid under the laws of this state, it is valid in Connecticut.

Should Mrs. Plant succeed in this present suit in having the probate in New Haven declared void, the question as to the validity of the will in this state will then arise. Should it be held to be invalid, and the estate distributed as if Mr. Plant died intestate, Mrs. Plant will inherit between \$6,000,000 and \$7,000,000, while Morton Freeman Plant will get the balance, about \$14,000,000.

The son, however, does not side with his mother in this dispute, even though he would become many times a millionaire by the upsetting of the will.—New York Herald.

\$100 Reward \$100.

The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers, that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials. Address, F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. Sold by Druggists. 75c. Hall's Family Pills are the best.

Southern Mail Train.

The Southern Railway, beginning February 23, shortened the schedule of its morning train, the United States fast mail, to Jacksonville at 7:20 a. m., instead of 9:25 a. m., as heretofore. This improved schedule will doubtless be approved by everyone. Mails coming by the Southern will therefore arrive from the north some two hours earlier than heretofore, and this will prove very acceptable to the newspaper reading public and to persons having northern correspondents. The schedule also insures connection at Jacksonville with trains to the southern part of the state for both mail and passengers. This better schedule is the result of the mail appropriation just made by congress for a continuance of the quick mail service by the Southern Railway.

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